Numb. 3893

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Monday March 1. to Thursday March 4. 1702.

By the QUEEN,

A PROCLAMATION,

For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophaneness, and Immorality.

ANNE R.

WHereas on Our Accession to the Throne, We thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue out Our Royal Proclamation for the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophaneness, and Immorality: And whereas We have been Informed, That Our Laws mentioned in the said Proclamation have not been Executed according to Our Just Expectation and Commands; We most Seriously and Religiously Considering, That it is an Indispensible Duty on Us, to be Careful, above all other things, to Preserve and Advance the Honour and Service of Almighty God, and to Discourage and Suppress all Vice, Prophaneness, Debauchery and Immorality, which are so highly Displeasing to God, so great a Reproach to Our Religion and Government, and (by means of the frequent ill Examples of the Practicers thereof) have so Fatal a Tendency to the Corruption of many of Our Loving Subjects, otherwise Religiously and Virtuously Disposed, and which (if not timely Remedied) may justly draw down the Divine Vengeance on Us and Our Kingdoms: We also humbly Acknowledging, That We cannot expect the Blessing and Goodness of Almighty God (by whom Kings and Queens Reign) and on which We entirely Rely) to make Our Reign Happy and Prosperous to Our Self and Our People, nor hope for the Divine Assistance to Deliver Us from the great and imminent Dangers which Our Kingdoms, and the True Protestant Religion, Established among Us, are in this Present Juncture Threatned with, without a Religious Observance of Gods Holy Laws: To the Intent therefore that Religion, Piety, and Good Manners may (according to Our most Hearty Desire) Flourish and Increase under Our Administration and Government, We have thought fit (by the Advice of Our Privy Council) to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Prophaneness and Immorality in all Persons of whatsoever Degree or Quality within this Our Realm, and particularly in such as are Imployed near Our Royal Person; and that for the greater Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Persons of Piety and Virtue by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do Expect and Require that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will give good Example by their own Virtue and Piety, and to their utmost contribute to the Discountenancing Persons of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being by that means reduced to Shame and Contempt, for their Loose and Evil Actions and Behaviour, may be thereby also Enforced the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices, and that the visible Displeasure of Good Men towards them, may (as far as it is possible) supply what the Laws (probably) cannot altogether Prevent. And We do hereby strictly Enjoyn and Prohibit all Our Loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality soever, from Playing on the Lords Day at Dice, Cards or any other Game whatsoever, either in Publick or Private Houses, or other Place or Places whatsoever; and do hereby Require and Command them and every of them Decently and Reverently to Attend the Worship of God on every Lords Day, on Pain of Our Highest Displeasure, and of being Proceeded against with the Utmost Rigour that may be by Law. And for the more Effectual Reforming of all such Persons, who by Reason of their Dissolute Lives and Conversations, are a Scandal to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it may Concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Prophane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Prophanation of the Lords Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices; and that they take Care also Effectually to Suppress all Baudy-Houses, Publick Gaming-Houses and Places, and other Disorderly Houses, and to put in Execution the Statute made in the Nine and twentieth Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Uncle King Charles the Second, Intituled, An Act for the better Observation of the Lords Day, commonly called Sunday, and also an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Our late Dear Brother King William the Third, Intituled, An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing of Blasphemy and Prophaneness, and all other Laws now in Force for the Punishing and Suppressing any of the Vices aforesaid; and also to Suppress and Prevent all Gaming whatsoever in Publick or Private Houses on the Lords Day, and likewise that they take Effectual Care to Prevent all Persons Keeping Taverns, Chocolate-Houses, Coffee-Houses, or other Publick Houses whatsoever, from Seling Wine, Chocolate, Coffee, Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, or Receiving or Permitting Guests to be or remain in such their Houses on the Lords Day, (except in Case of Necessity and Charity) as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our Highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceeding herein, We do hereby Direct and Command all Our Juages of Assize and Justices of the Peace, to give strict Charges at their respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the kinds aforesaid, and also of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution; and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, cause this Our Proclamation to be publickly Read in open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And We do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish-Church or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditories to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners, and others, who are Imployed in Our Service, by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take care to avoid all Prophaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by their own Good and Virtuous Lives and Conversations, they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Care and Authority, and likewise take Care of and Inspect the Behaviour of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid, as they will be Answerable for the Ill Consequences of their Neglect herein.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the Five and twentieth Day of *February*, 1702. In the First Year of Our Reign.

GOD Save the QUEEN.

Dantzick, Febr. 17. *N. S.* Our Magistrates are making new Levies, in order to reinforce our Garison, and have ordered a good quantity of Ammunition to be bought up to store our Magazines, and are providing every thing else that may be necessary for our Security. The Sieur *Hoppen*, one of the Senate of this City, and one of their Secretaries, are sent to *Marienburg*, to compliment the King of *Poland* in the Name of our Senate on his Arrival there. It is yet uncertain what stay the King will make in that Town,